



Lower Limber Jim Restoration

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW

PROPOSAL INFORMATION

Proposal Name: Lower Limber Jim Restoration

PALS Tracking #: 57177

Proposal Date: 11/28/2018

Project File: C:\Users\briannacarollo\Box\01.brianna.carolloWorkspace\lag2019SmallProjects\Lower Limber Jim Restoration

Proponent Name: Joe Platz

Line Officer: Bill Gamble

General Location: Lower Limber Jim Creek

District: La Grande Ranger District

Legal Description: T5S R35E S32

County(ies): Union

Elevation Range: 4400ft

Anticipated Implementation: May – November 2020

Watersheds: Upper Grande Ronde River and Limber Jim Creek watersheds

Signing Authority: District Ranger

APPLICABLE CATEGORY/IES

This proposal is categorically excluded from documentation in an EA or EIS because it fits the following category by improving hydrologic conditions of Lower Fly Creek using materials harvested within the watershed.

Applicable Category: 36 CFR 220.6(e)(7) (DM Required)



PROPOSAL

Introduction

The Lower Limber Jim project is located on 0.6 mile of Limber Jim Creek (starting near RM 0) on private land within the Upper Grande Ronde River (1706010401) and Limber Jim Creek (170601040102) watersheds. Limber Jim Creek is spawning and rearing habitat for Snake River Basin summer steelhead, Snake River Basin spring Chinook salmon, bull trout and redband trout. This project will be completed by the US Forest Service with partnership from Grande Ronde Model Watershed and Bonneville Power Administration.

Historic beaver trapping, grazing, and road building created a laterally confined channel with limited floodplain interaction and diminished deciduous vegetation. As a result, the stream channel simplified with low levels of large wood and inadequate pool habitat. Floodplain inundation and function is limited.

Large woody debris (LWD) placement will improve existing conditions by adding channel roughness, increasing floodplain interaction and habitat complexity, and promoting out of channel flooding. Project activities are expected to create longer periods of hydrologic production, decrease stream temperatures, and increase deciduous riparian vegetation.

Project Activities

The following will be constructed from RM 0 – RM 0.6

- 6 channel spanning debris jam structures made with
 - 2: 13-18” logs with rootwads
 - 3: 10-13” logs with rootwads
 - 2: 8-15” diameter tops or small rootwads
 - 4: ten yard loads of racking material.
- 24 habitat structures made with
 - 1: 13-20” logs with rootwads
 - 3: 10-13” logs with rootwads
 - 3 : 8-15” diameter tops or small rootwads
 - 2: ten yard loads of racking material.
- 73 whole trees will be placed between structures
- 100 pieces of wood will be placed in side/overflow channels
 - Total of 216 Pieces of large wood
 - 720 yards of racking material
 - Disturbed areas will be seeded with native plants and mulched where applicable

Wood will be placed in the channel and floodplain with excavators/log loaders. No digging or trenching of large wood or racking material will occur. Access for machinery to the stream would occur via National Forest System (NFS) Roads 5125 and 5130.

Approximately 200 trees will be removed from a 2 mile roadside segment of NFS road 5130-021. Trees marked for extraction are all within 20’ of the road prism and will be plucked or pushed over with rootwads attached. An additional 100 trees will be felled and removed from

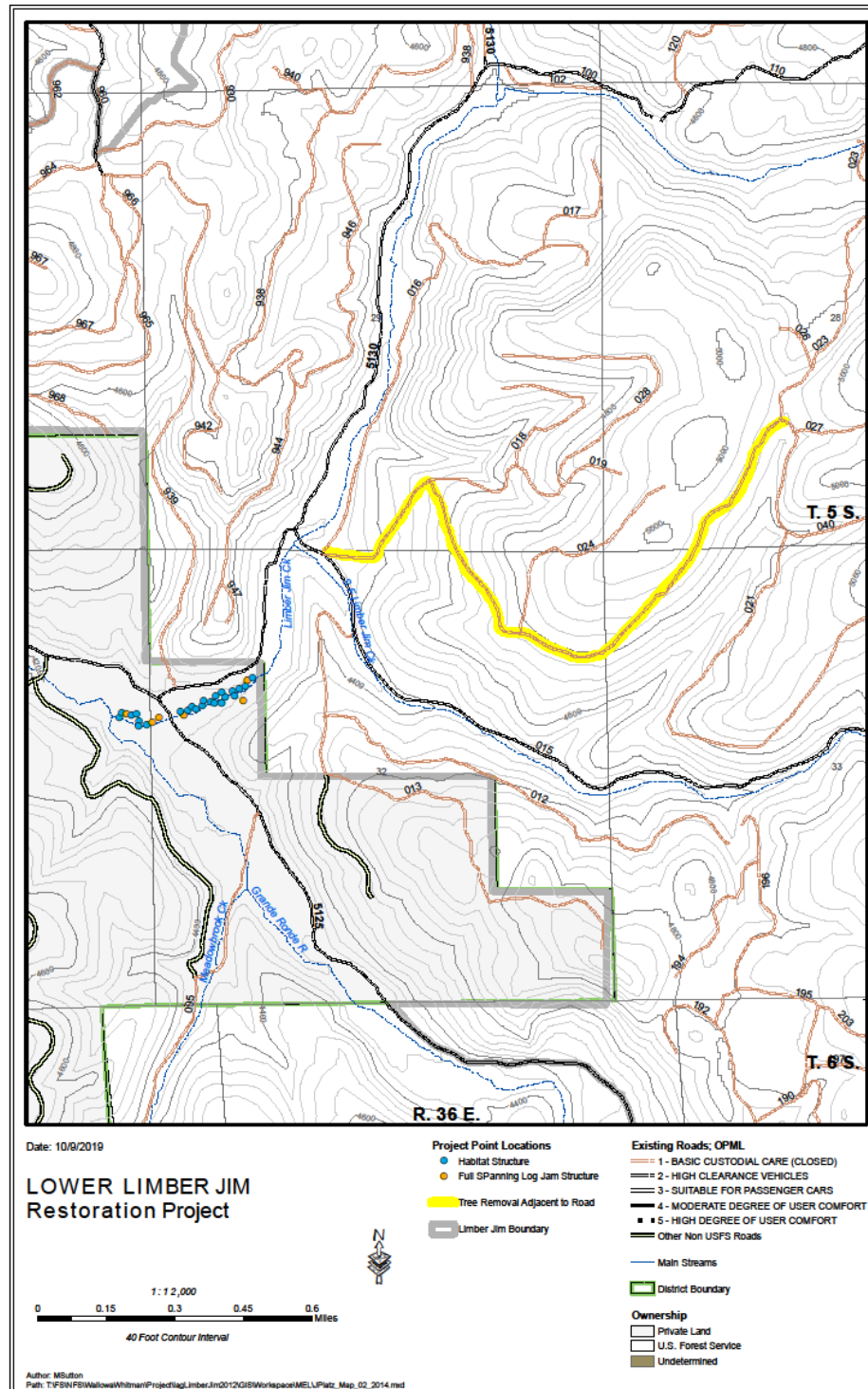


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private lands (adjacent to the NFS road 5130 and within 300' of Limber Jim Creek). All of the racking material will be obtained from NFS road 5130-021. No trees over 21" dbh will be plucked, pushed over, or felled for the project.

The project is scheduled to begin May 18 and be completed by November 6, 2020. All of the instream work will occur in July. Tree removal and haul from roads will occur from May 18 – June 30. Tree removal adjacent to Limber Jim Creek will occur from June 1 through June 30. Rehabilitation, seeding and planting will occur from May 18 – November 6.

MAP(S)





PROPOSAL SCREENING

REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS

Given the nature of the proposal, the Responsible Official is requesting documentation to demonstrate compliance with the following regulatory considerations in addition to NEPA:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NFMA/Land Management Plan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tribal Consultation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Endangered Species Act | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clean Water Act |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sensitive Species (FSM 2670) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pertinent Executive Orders |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Historic Preservation Act | |

AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS & PERSONS TO BE CONTACTED

Given the nature of the proposal, the Line Officer/Responsible Official is requesting the following agencies, organizations and/or persons be contacted to provide input to, or to be made aware of, the proposal. A brief overview of feedback or comments provided is included.

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR)

NOAA Fisheries

Nez Perce Tribe

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

Private Landowner

RESOURCE PARTICIPATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS REVIEW

The Line Officer/Responsible Official has requested the following resource areas to review the proposal to determine compliance with the regulatory considerations.

Table 1: Documentation of Review Completion

Resource	Review Complete
Botany	1/21/2020 Scott Schaefer
Cultural/Heritage	1/21/2020 Anthony King
Fisheries	1/21/2020 Joe Platz
Hydro	1/21/2020 Dana Nave
Soils	1/21/2020 Mary Young
Wildlife	1/21/2020 Laura Navarrete

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS REVIEW

NATIONAL FOREST MANAGEMENT ACT (NFMA) – LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN CONSISTENCY



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The pertinent specialist has reviewed the proposal and made the following determinations regarding proposal consistency with applicable Land Management Plan direction, standards and guidelines.

Botany: Consistent	Range: N/A
Cultural/Heritage: Consistent	Recreation: N/A
Engineering: N/A	Scenic Resources: N/A
Fisheries: Consistent	Soils: Consistent
Fuels: N/A	Silviculture: N/A
Hydro: Consistent	Special Management Areas: N/A
Lands/Special Uses: N/A	Wildlife: Consistent
Minerals: N/A	

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, PROPOSED AND CANDIDATE SPECIES &/OR CRITICAL HABITAT

The pertinent specialists reviewed the proposal and made the following determinations for threatened, endangered and/or proposed species:

Table 2: TEPC Effect Determinations for ESA

Species/Habitat	Status	Proposed or Designated Critical Habitat Present?	Determination*	Brief Rationale (or refer to other project documentation)
Summer Steelhead	Threatened	Yes	No Jeopardy	Long term beneficial effects to habitat.
Bull Trout	Threatened	Yes	No Jeopardy	
Spring Chinook	Threatened	Yes	No Jeopardy	

*NE – No Effect; NLAA – May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect; LAA – May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect; **No Jeopardy** - Not Likely to Jeopardize the Continued Existence or Adversely Modify Critical Habitat

SUPPORTING PROJECT DOCUMENTATION

Table 3: Applicable Project File Documentation to Support ESA Compliance

Documentation Type	File Name (if applicable/needed)
ARBOII	C:\Users\briannacarollo\Box\01. brianna.carollo Workspace\lag2019SmallProjects\Lower Limber Jim Restoration

**SENSITIVE SPECIES (FSM 2670)**

Table 4: Sensitive Species Impact Determinations

Species	Determination*	Rationale (or refer to other project documentation)
Redband Trout	MIIH	Short term negative impacts, long term beneficial impacts
Pacific Lamprey	MIIH	Short term negative impacts, long term beneficial impacts
Columbia spotted frog	MIIH	Short term negative impacts, long term beneficial impacts

NI – No Impact; **MIIH**- May Impact Individuals or Habitat, but Will Not Likely Contribute To A Trend Towards Federal Listing Or Loss Of Viability To The Population Or Species; **WIFV** - Will Impact Individuals or Habitat with A Consequence That the Action May Contribute To A Trend Towards Federal Listing Or Cause A Loss Of Viability To The Population Or Species

SUPPORTING PROJECT DOCUMENTATION

Table 5: Applicable Project File Documentation to Support Agency Sensitive Species Compliance

Documentation Type	File Name (if applicable/needed)
ARBOII, Wildlife BE	C:\Users\briannakcarollo\Box\01. brianna.carollo Workspace\lag2019SmallProjects\Lower Limber Jim Restoration

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT (NHPA) – SECTION 106 REVIEW

The pertinent specialist has reviewed the proposal and made the following determination regarding Section 106 compliance:

No historic properties affected - 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1). Section 106 Review has been completed for the project area and no National Register eligible cultural sites were found.

SUPPORTING PROJECT DOCUMENTATION

Table 6: Applicable Project File Documentation to Support NHPA Compliance

Documentation Type	File Name (if applicable/needed)
SHPO Programmatic Agreement	C:\Users\briannakcarollo\Box\01. brianna.carollo Workspace\lag2019SmallProjects\Lower Limber Jim Restoration

TRIBAL CONSULTATION

Based on the nature of the proposal, the line officer/responsible official made the following determination regarding Tribal Consultation:

Consultation with American Indian Tribes has been initiated and is ongoing.

COMMENTS



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CTUIR – Information provided in 2019 Program of Work package and presented at December 17, 2019 meeting with CTUIR natural resource and cultural committees.

CTUIR and NPT – 02/04/2020 Section 106 Consultation packages submitted to tribes.

CLEAN WATER ACT (CWA)

The pertinent specialist has reviewed the proposal and made the following determination:

This project will not adversely affect water quality in the long term.

SUPPORTING PROJECT DOCUMENTATION

Table 7: Applicable Project File Documentation to Support CWA Compliance

Documentation Type	File Name(s)
Permit with Army Corps of Engineers and DSL	ARRS Database

PERTINENT EXECUTIVE ORDERS

The line officer and/or applicable specialist(s) have determined the proposal is in compliance with the following Executive Orders (EO), which were deemed pertinent based on the nature of the proposal.

- EO 11988, Floodplain Management
- EO 11990, Protection of Wetlands
- EO 12898, Environmental Justice
- EO 13007, Indian Sacred Sites
- EO 13112, Invasive Species
- EO 13175, Consultation & Coordination w/ Indian Tribal Governments
- EO 13186, Migratory Birds
- EO 13443, Facilitation of Hunting Heritage & Wildlife Conservation

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) – EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCE CONSIDERATIONS

Pertinent specialists have reviewed the proposal and made the following determinations with regards to presence of extraordinary circumstances:



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Table 8: Extraordinary Circumstance Determinations

Resources Conditions Considered for Extraordinary Circumstances	Is there a degree of potential effect that raises uncertainty over its significance? Briefly explain. ¹
WILDLIFE Federally listed threatened or endangered species, Designated critical habitat, Forest Service sensitive species	NO, there is no uncertainty Rationale for Yes/No: This is a routine set of actions with predictable effects.
FISHERIES Federally listed threatened or endangered species, Designated critical habitat, Forest Service sensitive species	NO, there is no uncertainty Rationale for Yes/No: This is a routine set of actions with predictable effects.
BOTANY Federally listed threatened or endangered species, Designated critical habitat, Forest Service sensitive species	NO, there is no uncertainty Rationale for Yes/No: This is a routine set of actions with predictable effects.
Floodplains, wetlands or municipal watersheds	NO, there is no uncertainty This is a routine set of actions with predictable effects.
Congressionally designated areas, such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or national recreation areas	N/A, not present
Inventoried roadless areas	N/A, not present
Research natural areas	N/A, not present
American Indians and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites	NO, there is no uncertainty Rationale for Yes/No: No cultural properties were identified within the project area. If any are discovered during implementation, the site will be protected.
Archaeological sites, or historic properties or areas	NO, there is no uncertainty Rationale for Yes/No: No historic properties were identified within the project area. If any are discovered during implementation, the site will

¹Be sure to provide resource context for rationale discussions. Is there something unique to this proposal or existing resource conditions that would lead to greater intensity of effects than would typically be anticipated for similar actions?



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Resources Conditions Considered for Extraordinary Circumstances	Is there a degree of potential effect that raises uncertainty over its significance? Briefly explain. ¹
	be protected.



DECISION MEMO

Lower Limber Jim Restoration Project

U.S. Forest Service

La Grande Ranger District, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

Union County, OR

This decision incorporates all previous information in this document and included in the project file.

DECISION & RATIONALE

I have decided to authorize the activities described above in the [Proposal](#) section, to include any modifications identified during environmental analysis and review of regulatory compliance.

APPLICABLE CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION & FINDINGS REQUIRED BY OTHER LAWS

The [Proposal Information](#) section above provides rationale for categorically excluding this action from documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and for using 36 CFR 220.6(e)(7). The [Environmental Analysis Review](#) section documents the finding that no extraordinary circumstances exist, along with findings required by other applicable laws and regulations, demonstrating compliance with the regulatory framework for the activities authorized by this decision.

AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS & PERSONS CONTACTED

A [list of agencies, organizations and/or persons contacted](#) regarding this proposal is provided above, along with a brief overview of comments/feedback received and how they were considered.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE

I intend to implement this decision in May of 2020.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

Decisions that are categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) are not subject to an administrative review process (Agriculture Act of 2014 [Pub. L. No. 113-79], Subtitle A, Sec. 8006).

CONTACT

For additional information concerning this decision, contact:

Joe Platz, Fisheries Biologist, 3502 Hwy 30, La Grande, OR, 97850, 541-962-8571.

3/11/2020

Bill Gamble

District Ranger, La Grande Ranger District



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